

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) Elastic hinge formed into a monolithic structure (18), whereby the elastic hinge separates the monolithic structure (18) in a rotating structural part (21) and a fixed structural part (20), and whereby the elastic hinge allows rotation of said rotating structural part (21) relative to said fixed structural part (20), said elastic hinge being formed by forming at least one first slit-like element (22) into said monolithic structure (18), whereby the or each first slit-like element (22) defines the elastic hinge and thereby at least one rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge, characterized in that at least one rod-like or plate-like element (27) is formed into said monolithic structure (18) by forming at least one second slit-like element (23) into said monolithic structure (18).
2. (original) Elastic hinge according to claim 1, characterized in that the or each first slit-like element (22) comprises at least two segments (24, 25) defining a plane (X-Z), whereby the or each second slit-like element (23) runs approximately in parallel to one segment (24) of a corresponding first slit-like element (22) thereby defining a rod-like or plate-like element (27).

3. (original) Elastic hinge according to claim 2, characterized in that the displacement or rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge runs approximately perpendicular to said plane (X-Z).

4. (currently amended) Elastic hinge according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, characterized in that the or each first slit-like element (22) comprises at least two segments, whereby a first segment (24) runs in the direction of a first axis (X) and a second segment (25) runs mainly in the direction of a second axis (Z) being perpendicular to said first axis (X), and whereby the rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge runs in a direction perpendicular to said plane (X-Z) defined by the first axis (X) and the second axis (Z).

5. (currently amended) Elastic hinge according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that the or each first slit-like element (22) is formed into said monolithic structure (18) in a way that the or each first slit-like element (22) does only extend to the exterior of the monolithic structure (18) in the direction of the rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge, whereby the first slit-like element (22) is completely

surrounded by the monolithic structure (18) in the direction of the axis (X, Z) defining said plane (X-Z).

6. (currently amended) Elastic hinge according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, characterized in that the or each second slit-like element (23) is formed into said monolithic structure (18) in a way that the or each second slit-like element (23) extends to the exterior of the monolithic structure (18) in the direction of the rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge and in the direction of one axis (X) defining said plane (X-Z).

7. (currently amended) Elastic hinge according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, characterized in that the or each first and second slit-like elements (22, 23) are formed into said monolithic structure by a wire Electro Discharge Machining process.

8. (original) Elastic hinge according to claim 7, characterized in that the or each second slit-like element (23) is formed into said monolithic structure by the same wire Electro Discharge Machining process used to form the or each first slit-like element (22) into said monolithic structure.

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9. (original) Device comprising at least one elastic hinge formed into a monolithic structure (18) of said device, whereby the or each elastic hinge separates the monolithic structure in a rotating structural part (21) and a fixed structural part (20), and whereby the elastic hinge allows rotation of said rotating structural part relative to said fixed structural part, said elastic hinge being formed by forming at least one first slit-like element (22) into said monolithic structure, whereby the or each first slit-like element (22) defines the elastic hinge and thereby at least one rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge, characterized in that at least one rod-like or plate-like element (27) is formed into said monolithic structure (18) by forming at least one second slit-like element (23) into said monolithic structure (18).

10. (currently amended) Device according to claim 9, comprising at least one elastic hinge formed into a monolithic structure (18) of said device, whereby the or each elastic hinge separates the monolithic structure in a rotating structural part (21) and a fixed structural part (20), and whereby the elastic hinge allows rotation of said rotating structural part relative to said fixed structural part, said elastic hinge being formed by forming at least one first slit-like element (22) into said monolithic structure, whereby the or each first slit-like element (22) defines the elastic hinge and

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thereby at least one rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge,  
characterized in that at least one rod-like or plate-like element  
(27) is formed into said monolithic structure (18) by forming at  
least one second slit-like element (23) into said monolithic  
structure (18) characterized in that the or each elastic hinge is  
formed according to any one of the preceding claims 2 to 8claim 2.

11. (original) Method for manufacturing an elastic hinge into a monolithic structure, whereby the elastic hinge separates the monolithic structure in a rotating structural part and a fixed structural part, and whereby the elastic hinge allows rotation of said rotating structural part relative to said fixed structural part, by performing the following steps:

- a) providing a monolithic structure,
- b) forming at least one first slit-like element into said monolithic structure, thereby defining an elastic hinge, whereby said elastic hinge defines at least one rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge,
- c) forming at least one rod-like or plate-like element into said monolithic structure by forming at least one second slit-like element into said monolithic structure.

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12. (original) Method according to claim 11, characterized in that the or each first slit-like element will be formed in a way that the or each first slit-like element comprises at least two segments, whereby a first segment runs in the direction of a first axis (X) and a second segment runs mainly in the direction of a second axis (Z) being perpendicular to said first axis (X), and whereby the rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge runs in a direction perpendicular to said plane (X-Z) defined by the first axis (X) and the second axis (Z).

13. (original) Method according to claim 12, characterized in that the or each second slit-like element will be formed in a way the or each second slit-like element runs approximately in parallel to one segment of a corresponding first slit-like element thereby defining a rod-like or plate-like element.

14. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 11 to 13~~claim 11, characterized in that the or each first slit-like element will be formed into said monolithic structure in a way that the or each first slit-like element does only extend to the exterior of the monolithic structure in the direction of the rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge, whereby the or each first slit-like element is completely surrounded by the

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monolithic structure in the direction of the axis (X, Z) defining said plane (X-Z).

15. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 11 to 14~~claim 11, characterized in that the or each second slit-like element is formed into said monolithic structure in a way that the or each second slit-like element extends to the exterior of the monolithic structure in the direction of the rotation axis (Y) of the elastic hinge and in the direction of one axis (X) defining said plane (X-Z).

16. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 11 to 15~~claim 11, characterized in that the or each first and second slit-like elements will be formed into said monolithic structure by a wire Electro Discharge Machining process.

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